(a) whether Government have shown interest in organising Asian Games;

(b) if so, where;

(c) whether preliminary preparation has started; and

(d) which Indian Games will be played over there?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) With the approval of Government of India, Indian Olympic Association, the apex body for holding Asian Games, is bidding for the 2006 Asian Games being held at Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Disciplines are yet to be finalised. However, Kabaddi, the Indian Game is one of the Asian Games disciplines since 1990.

Drug Addiction Among Indian Athletes

1202. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian athletes are made addicted to drugs;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item which appeared in the Marathi daily ""Loksatta", dated 30th January, 2000; and

(c) it so, what is the response of SAI and Government over this?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The article discuss the use of drugs, in general, in sports. No reference is made about India.

(c) In India, there is a Dope Control Laboratory funded by Government of India, being operated under Sports Authority of India at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. This laboratory is conducting a comprehensive drug testing programme with the aim of deterring elite level athletes from taking prohibited substances. The laboratory is engaged in carrying out dope testing on probables during coaching camps and selection trials and Random testing of our sports persons selected for participation in any international competition/tournament. In addition, the SAI Scientists manning the Dope Control Laboratory also visit SAI Centres, national campers, coaches and doctors regularly and educate them against the use of drugs in sports. SAI Sports Scientists have also prepared an information guide "Drug Abuse in Sports' which are distributed to sports persons, coaches and doctors as part of an education programme.